



In collaboration with



Catechist Level 1 Foundational Courses	Creed	Sacraments	Morality	Prayer	Catechetical Methods
	<i>What We Believe</i>	<i>Sacraments</i>	<i>Personal Morality</i>	<i>Spirituality & Faith</i>	<i>Catechist Orientation</i>
	2 ½ hours	2 ½ hours	2 ½ hours	2 ½ hours	4 hours

Catechist Level 1
Total hours: 14

Catechist level 2 Aquinas College Catechetical Formation Courses		Creed	Sacraments	Morality	Prayer	Catechetical Methods	Personal Reflection
Year 1	Spring	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Autumn	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
Year 2	Spring	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Autumn	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
Year 3	Spring	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
	Autumn	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
Catechist Portfolio	10 hours of credit given for keeping all records, materials, and reflections in a binder						

Catechist Level 2
Total hours: 46

Deepening Spirituality Ongoing Catechetical Formation	Creed	Sacraments	Morality	Prayer	Catechetical Methods
	6 hours of formation per year in one or more of the above content areas				

To be certified within the Diocese of Knoxville, a catechist must complete both *Catechist Levels 1 & 2*, for a total of 60 hours of formation. Once a catechist is certified, he or she must complete an additional six hours of formation per year to renew certification.

Rationale

The Diocese of Knoxville Catechetical Formation Program represents the best of what is available in the formation of today's catechists. Within the Diocese of Knoxville, catechists are formed:

- ✘ by their own diocese through Foundational courses.
- ✘ by the Dominican Sisters of the St. Cecilia Congregation through Aquinas College, Nashville.
- ✘ by ongoing deepening of faith through seminars, classes, workshops, and conferences offered locally, regionally, and nationally.

The Catechetical Formation Program consists of two levels: ***Catechist Level 1*** and ***Catechist Level 2***. Each level is considered a benchmark toward diocesan certification. When both levels are completed, a catechist becomes *certified* by the Diocese of Knoxville. The total number of hours required to achieve certification is sixty. For certified catechists, ongoing formation is accomplished through the ***Deepening Spirituality*** component of the Catechetical Formation Program.

Catechist Level 1: Foundational Courses

Courses in Level 1 serve as a foundation in the content, practice, and teaching of the Catholic Faith. Areas of faith formation are arranged according to the pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Since the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is the “authentic reference text” and “sure norm for teaching the faith,” the courses in both Levels 1 and 2 follow the content and method the *Catechism* provides. The total number of hours required in Catechist Level 1 is fourteen. These courses are scheduled yearly throughout the diocese. Each course is taken only once.

Catechist Level 2: Aquinas College Catechetical Formation Courses

Courses in Level 2 build upon and develop the courses offered in Level 1. The Level 2 courses are taught by Dominican faculty of Aquinas College. As professional educators, the Dominican Sisters have specialized training in Catholic doctrine, spirituality, and pedagogy. The total number of hours required in Catechist Level 2 is forty-six.

Level 2 courses extend over a period of three years. Two sessions per year (one in the fall and one in the spring) will be offered in locations throughout the diocese. Each session includes five program “modules” (Creed, Sacraments, Morality, Prayer, and Methods). Catechists can complete all program requirements within a three-year period by attending the fall and spring sessions as well as the Catechist Level 1 courses.

Deepening Spirituality: Ongoing Catechetical Formation

The aim of *Deepening Spirituality* is to encourage and enhance the ongoing faith development of a *certified catechist*. Deepening Spirituality further enables each catechist to focus on a particular area of interest or specialization such as morality, catechetical methodology, etc. This requirement can be fulfilled in a variety of ways: regional or national conferences, Diocesan Day, parish or school-based workshops, diocesan-sponsored classes, online seminars or courses, etc. In order to renew certification, a catechist must complete a minimum of six hours of formation per year. Certificates are renewed every three years.